

**Full Council  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Paul Lorber,  
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.**

**Cuts to our Health services at Willesden Community Hospital and across Brent.**

This Council expresses grave concern at the proposed closure of a 26-bed ward at the new Willesden Health and Social Care Centre (previously Willesden Hospital) as one of a swathe of cuts to local health services in Brent being forced upon the Primary Care Trust and North West London Hospitals Trust by the Government's funding regimes.

Council notes that these in-year cuts have nothing to do with the performance of Brent PCT or their own management of budgets, are not driven by an assessment of local need, so cannot by definition be part of a sensible longer-term strategy.

We also note that the original savings of £20 million demanded from the PCT have now increased by a further £2.6 million, further threatening essential services across Brent.

We value the commitment by Brent PCT to consult partners and stakeholders about the proposed savings plan. However, we remain deeply concerned at :

- any proposals to close Hospital or Health Centre wards, facilities or A&E departments
- the likely financial impact on the Council's own needs-led Adult Services provision of some of the plans being introduced to keep people out of Hospital
- the likely reduction in budgets for sensible Illness Prevention programmes
- the severe effect on hardworking local voluntary organisations such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Bereavement Service and many others

Council therefore resolves to :

- Oppose and lobby strongly against the proposed ward closure at Willesden Health and Social Care Centre and any other ward closures in Brent ;
- Continue to engage with the PCT and Hospitals Trust, via the Health Select Committee and other forums, to try to minimise the loss of health services ;
- Ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Secretaries of State for Health, and for Communities and Local Government, outlining our concerns for the future of our local health, adult and community services ;
- Lobby the Government to change Health funding so that PCTs like Brent are not penalised, and residents do not suffer from imposed cuts, because of the situation elsewhere.